

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, FEBRUARY 1979

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Joe Christensen on Canberra 526581 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616

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MAIN FEATURES

The figures below refer to industrial disputes involving stoppages of 10 man days or more

- There were 214 disputes in February 1979, involving 79,000 workers and 233,000 working days lost.
- The largest disputes involved shearers in New South Wales and South Australia, airline ground staff in four States, employees in clubs and household appliance manufacturing in New South Wales.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

More detailed information about disputes appears in the quarterly bulletin *Industrial Disputes* (6322.0).

2. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), described in the Bureau publication *Australian Standard Industrial Classification (Preliminary Edition)*, 1969, Vol. 1.

3. The statistics refer only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more. Workers involved include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute. Particulars of some stoppages (e.g. those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be

regarded as giving a broad measure of the extent of stoppages of work (as defined).

4. Stoppages of work occurring at different times and at different establishments, but having a common cause may be regarded as one industrial dispute. However, an industrial dispute occurring in more than one State is counted as a separate dispute in each State. Disputes not settled at the end of a year are included as new disputes in the figures for the following year. The monthly statistics refer to all disputes operative in the month, including those disputes that commenced in previous months. In Table 1 details of the number of disputes and workers involved are shown separately for disputes beginning in the month and for all disputes. Average days lost per worker involved on a monthly basis are not comparable with the yearly averages, because workers involved are included in each month in which they are involved in disputes, while they are counted once only for each dispute in the annual figures.

Related publications

5. All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- Nil or less than half the final digit shown
- .. Not applicable
- p Preliminary — figure subject to revision.

6. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

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Acting Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost		Estimated loss in wages (a) (\$'000)
	Beginning in month	Total (a)	Beginning in month	Total (a)	Number (a) ('000)	Average days per worker involved (b)	
1976	..	2,055	..	2,189.9	3,799.2	1.7	114,552
1977	..	2,090	..	596.2	1,654.8	2.8	59,674
1978	..	2,277	..	1,075.6	2,130.8	2.0	78,404
1978 -							
January	118	118	14.9	14.9	30.5	2.1	1,237
February	183	192	34.0	35.6	69.7	2.0	2,640
March	156	183	32.1	39.3	83.5	2.1	3,286
April	184	208	102.1	110.0	227.5	2.1	8,078
May	225	249	346.9	368.9	413.6	1.1	14,156
June	178	200	57.3	60.4	150.6	2.5	6,253
July	213	233	68.1	79.5	159.9	2.0	6,290
August	234	256	142.4	155.9	250.2	1.6	9,498
September	237	289	84.4	101.0	252.8	2.5	8,859
October	241	287	58.9	75.7	207.0	2.7	7,672
November	203	248	53.3	72.8	170.7	2.3	6,184
December	105	126	81.2	89.1	114.7	1.3	4,253
1979 -							
January p	133	133	25.2	25.2	51.0	2.0	2,199
February p	197	214	75.0	79.0	233.0	3.0	10,195

(a) Refers to all disputes operative and workers involved in the period. (b) Monthly figures are not comparable with yearly figures.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (a)

Period	Manufacturing				Construction	Transport and storage; communication		Other industries (b)	All industries
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other		Stevedoring services	Other		
	Coal	Other							
1976	159.1	215.0	775.0	856.5	535.8	37.1	388.0	832.6	3,799.2
1977	102.8	170.9	204.4	455.7	215.2	39.9	172.6	293.3	1,654.8
1978	142.3	125.1	732.1	490.2	134.1	122.9	166.9	217.2	2,130.8
1978 —									
January	2.7	4.0	2.7	9.1	7.4	0.6	1.7	2.3	30.5
February	8.9	4.2	12.7	20.9	6.8	0.8	7.3	8.1	69.7
March	11.6	8.1	15.9	13.2	6.2	4.7	16.4	7.4	83.5
April	6.6	15.0	65.9	84.0	2.0	39.7	9.7	4.8	227.5
May	7.4	14.0	288.6	32.6	20.0	14.1	13.5	23.5	413.6
June	36.4	13.6	24.0	17.4	14.2	3.7	26.8	14.5	150.6
July	19.0	15.3	40.1	26.6	9.8	1.4	9.5	38.2	159.9
August	13.5	24.4	111.6	40.8	28.0	6.2	16.9	8.8	250.2
September	15.1	1.8	48.3	74.0	14.7	38.9	24.0	35.9	252.8
October	10.4	16.1	43.2	97.8	12.9	3.4	2.8	20.4	207.0
November	4.4	6.1	46.1	56.1	8.3	4.7	6.2	38.8	170.7
December	6.4	2.3	33.0	17.7	3.9	4.7	32.1	14.6	114.7
1979 —									
January p	5.6	5.4	8.1	7.5	11.6	2.0	3.6	7.2	51.0
February p	12.2	7.2	52.9	21.3	15.0	1.9	43.7	78.9	233.0

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period. (b) ASIC divisions A, D, F, I to L.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (b)
1976	1,456.5	1,420.0	426.0	151.8	252.1	62.2	3,799.2
1977	538.2	586.1	240.8	30.6	220.5	26.7	1,654.8
1978	970.8	468.1	360.3	79.1	197.9	35.4	2,130.8
1978 -							
January	9.3	8.9	4.4	2.2	5.3	0.1	30.5
February	30.2	24.6	7.3	1.3	4.8	0.9	69.7
March	40.1	7.9	13.9	5.4	14.6	0.1	83.5
April	104.4	44.5	25.8	16.0	26.6	9.1	227.5
May	198.9	131.4	45.2	11.2	16.2	8.9	413.6
June	52.1	23.5	55.2	3.2	11.5	4.9	150.6
July	90.3	19.2	24.6	5.4	17.4	1.0	159.9
August	136.0	38.7	40.4	10.9	19.9	3.0	250.2
September	125.1	79.9	27.2	6.6	8.3	1.9	252.8
October	94.0	38.4	38.4	5.0	21.7	4.2	207.0
November	59.9	33.8	33.8	7.3	34.1	0.7	170.7
December	30.6	17.3	44.2	4.7	17.4	0.6	114.7
1979 -							
January p	22.6	15.3	3.6	0.2	7.8	0.7	51.0
February p	158.4	46.9	5.4	9.1	6.6	2.7	233.0

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.